

# AMERICAN

## Patriot Press

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM AMERICAN CUSTOM YACHTS

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## QUE MAS Takes It!

### ACY 70 Wins Top Boat in Custom Shootout

Wally and Sue Whitley have once again found themselves asking, "What more?" of their ACY70 QUE MAS. In May, the QUE MAS proudly represented ACY in the 7th Annual Custom Shootout in Harbour Island, Bahamas. Even though they were shut out on the first day of fishing, the QUE MAS was quick to make a comeback, as Whitley and his crew found themselves tied for the lead at the end of day two. A white marlin release on the third and final day of fishing cinched the win, and the QUE MAS was named the Top Overall Boat. A total of 19 custom-built sportfishing boats, representing 14 custom boat builders, competed in the tournament. At the awards ceremony, ACY President Dominick LaCombe was presented with the perpetual Custom Shootout trophy, a beautiful custom Carey Chen glass sculpture which will be displayed in the ACY lobby until next year's Shootout.

Photo Courtesy of Due South Photography

This win continues what has been a great year of fishing for the QUE MAS and crew. After winning the Sea Horse Angler's Club Billfish Tournament in Bermuda and placing third overall in the Bermuda Triangle Series, Whitley had the QUE MAS transported to Piñas Bay, Panama, for the fall fishing season. Their luck continued in the Pacific as they caught two grand slams before returning to their home port in Islamorada, Florida, for the winter.



Team QUE MAS celebrates their victory at the Custom Shootout.



Photo Courtesy of Due South Photography

### ACY & BAT Make a Splash Above & Below the Surface

The Martin County Anglers Club (MCAC) Artificial Reef Fund was created several years ago to enhance Martin County, Florida's artificial reef program. In order to secure the funding needed to meet their goals, the MCAC Reef Fund launched its annual reef fishing tournament last summer. ACY and BAT were honored to be Gold Sponsors of the event.

This year, the two companies decided to kick it up a notch and purchase naming rights to two of four steel towers scheduled to become Martin County's newest artificial reef. This new reef is composed of four 33-foot-tall steel towers donated by the U.S. Navy and modified for reef deployment at Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute at Florida Atlantic University in Fort Pierce. The ACY and BAT Towers were dropped in 200 feet of water south of Wickstrom Reef and parallel to Eight Mile Reef on June 27. Each tower features its sponsor's name proudly displayed on a steel plate. The other towers were sponsored by Dr. Robert Baratta and Debbie Schmidt.



The ACY and BAT towers were successfully deployed on Friday, June 27.



The goal of the artificial reef program is to improve fishing and diving in the waters off of Martin County. The location of the tower reef was chosen to fill in the gap between neighboring reefs and to promote the growth of a rare, deepwater coral in the *Oculina* genus. This type of coral, commonly known as the ivory tree coral, is slow-growing and very delicate. It is often associated with areas of high biodiversity, as it provides ideal spawning sites for numerous species of reef-dwelling fish, including economically important species such as groupers and snappers. The reef will also attract many pelagic species, including sailfish, wahoo and dolphin.